

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: July 10, 2023

**To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sequanna Taylor, Chairwoman, Committee on Intergovernmental Relations**

From: Fred Ludwig, Government Affairs Liaison, County Board of Supervisors

Subject: File No. 23-10 – July 2023 Report

Background

Pursuant to File No. 23-10, this report is submitted as an informational report regarding legislative updates. The purpose of this report is to provide an update related to relevant policy developments, as well as an overview on the current state legislative session.

State Budget

On July 5, Gov. Tony Evers signed the 2023-25 biennial budget majority party lawmakers sent to his desk the week prior. The State Senate passed the budget on June 28 on a nearly party-line vote, 20-13, with all minority party members and two majority party members voting against. The State Assembly passed the budget on June 29 by a 63-34 vote along party lines. Gov. Evers issued 51 partial vetoes but largely signed off on most of the \$98.7 billion biennial budget.

Evers' most notable vetoes eliminated provisions that would have reduced two of the state's four income tax brackets. The plan, supported by majority party legislators, sought to reduce the four income tax brackets to three while reducing the rates for all of them. His vetoes nixed knocking the top rate of 7.65 percent down to 6.5 percent and the second-highest bracket of 5.3 percent to 4.4 percent.

Impacts of other notable vetoes include:

- Increasing the state-imposed limits on how much money school districts can raise by \$325 per student each year until the year 2425
- Keeping more than 180 diversity, equity and inclusion positions for the UW System that were proposed to be eliminated
- Eliminating proposed prohibitions on transgender Wisconsinites from using Medicaid to pay for puberty-blocking drugs or gender-confirming surgeries
- Restoring \$15 million in grants to childcare providers
- Reducing a \$10 million grant to VISIT Milwaukee to \$1 million with the remaining \$9 million going to the state Department of Tourism

State Legislature

To date, no committee hearings are on the calendar yet for the month of July. The Legislature currently stands in recess, and the next floor period begins Sept. 12.

Sales Tax

On June 23, the County Board adopted a resolution requesting County staff to submit an informational report on the impacts of 2023 Wisconsin Act 12 to Milwaukee County.

With the intention of supporting Supervisor and public engagement, County Board Chairwoman Nicholson is convening a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 11, on the report that is to be submitted in response to the adopted resolution.

The first part of the July 11 Committee of the Whole will be a meeting to receive the informational report responsive to [File 23-685](#) and to hear testimonies from County departments with time for Supervisors to ask questions. This meeting part of the Committee of the Whole will convene at 9 AM in Room 200, the County Board Room.

The second part of the Committee of the Whole will be a hearing on the informational report responsive to File 23-685 where the floor will be opened for receipt of in-person and virtual testimonies from the public. This public hearing part of the Committee of the Whole will convene at 12:00 PM (or at the conclusion of the meeting section of the agenda, whichever occurs later) in Room 203R.

Additional process information that aligns with the Board's guiding [principles](#), including preparedness, sustainability, and decorum, will be circulated soon. As always, district offices are responsible for their community engagement on County matters, and they are encouraged to collect feedback from their constituents during this process.